



# The Human Touch

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TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Gov. Walker's 'Goodbye' to Human Services



**Robin's gift to Gov. Walker drew smiles, left, and we also said our 'goodbye's.'**  
Photos by Dave Thomas and Leigh Davis

**By Carol Sisco**  
**DHS Public Information**

"I know of no one else in state government – especially those case workers out in the field – who have more dedication," Gov. Olene Walker said during her Dec. 15 farewell visit to Human Services. "I'm so proud of what you've done in the department."

"The Department of Human Services really is for the state the Department of Heart," added Chief of Staff Gary Doxey.

Some of Gov. Walker's most touching memories are the "foster kids over 18" seeking independence. The last time she visited with them "many ran out and told me what they're doing" with school and training, she said. "It literally made my day to see those kids realizing the future could be in their hands."

At least 200 youth age out of foster care yearly. Overall, 940 youth 14 and over are in situations where they may not return home, may not



want to be adopted and need help planning their personal futures.

Gov. Walker's Transition to Adult Living Initiative has resulted in foster youth becoming a priority for receiving education, training and employment services.

Seven of them enrolled in college last fall. They also have their own Web site that answers questions about housing, health care, school and lots of other things at [www.justforyouth.utah.gov](http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov). And they have health insurance up to age 19 through Medicaid.

"So many memories flooded into my mind," Gov. Walker said upon arrival at the Human Services administrative building in Salt Lake City. "I'll never forget going to a DCFS regional office and asking a caseworker how she made the decision to place a girl in a situation that wasn't the best. She replied, 'I didn't have an alternative.'"

Gov. Walker was described as "a remarkable and vigilant leader and supporter of Human

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## ‘Goodbye’ to the Gov...

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Services,” by DHS Director Robin Arnold-Williams. During her years in the state Legislature, the Governor sponsored legislation that created the Division of Youth Corrections, now the Division of Juvenile Justice Services. As Lt. Governor she chaired a task force on work force development that merged several agencies into a one-stop shopping center for people

seeking jobs and needing various types of assistance including food stamps, welfare and medical cards. She also served briefly in 1994 as Division of Child and Family Services director.

“I’m so proud of what you’ve done in this department,” she told employees. “The future of youth, the heart of Utah is in your hands.”



**One final wave from Gov. Olene Walker**

## Family & Medical Leave Policy Changes

**By Jay Jensen, Human Resources**

Utah Department of Human Resource Management will change its policy Jan. 1 on using family and medical leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

FMLA allows an employee who has worked for the state at least 12 months and worked a minimum of 1250 hours during that time to take up to 12 weeks of leave in a 12 month period under certain conditions.

Conditions - defined by law - include birth or adoption of a child, placement of a foster child, a serious health condition, or caring for a spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition. The law also allows employers to choose the 12-month period in which the leave occurs.

Under current state policy, an employee’s entitlement is 12 weeks per calendar year from January 1 to December 31. An eligible employee may not carry unused FMLA leave into the next calendar year but receives a fresh allotment each January.

The state has decided to change the eligibility period from a calendar year to a “rolling” year beginning Jan. 1. Under the new policy the amount of FMLA leave an employee can receive at any point in time will be 12 weeks minus any FMLA leave used in the 12-month period immediately preceding the leave. It is called a “rolling” year because it has no fixed beginning or ending time. Rather, available leave is based on the amount of FMLA leave used in the 12 months preceding the day on which the new leave begins.

Changing the policy on January 1 assures that employees will have the full 12-month period available for this calendar year. From that point forward however, employees will begin to schedule their FMLA leave based on the new policy.

Employees with questions should contact their assigned Office of Human Resources technician, analyst or specialist.

## Coats Galore Delivered to the Needy

By Jeanne Lund, Juvenile Justice Services

“Wow! This is wonderful,” said Monet Steen from the Healthy Central City program in Salt Lake City as volunteers delivered coats and other warm clothing. “We have so many people who need these items.”

Utah’s Division of Juvenile Justice Services made a difference in the lives of hundreds of people when they participated in Make A Difference Day. The process started last May when Juvenile Justice Services regional volunteer coordinators Jill Merritt, Lisa Schauerhamer and Linda Campbell put together a program to assure that Utah’s needy would have warm clothing this winter. The goal was to provide a coat for every man, woman and child in Utah. We came very close to meeting that goal.

Juvenile Justice Services provides youth service centers for early intervention, detention programs and receiving centers for short-term care. They also offer observation and assessment centers for evaluation; case management for individual settings; secure facilities for long-term secure care; and after-care programs for reintegration into society. It’s wonderful to watch at-risk and hard-core youth get teary-eyed when they see old and young people alike get so excited about receiving a warm coat, scarf or hat.

Our effort began with a poster contest sponsored by Clearfield Job Corps graphic arts department. Students were invited to design a poster we could use statewide to advertise the need for warm winter clothing and the Make a Difference Day. A poster design was chosen and Clearfield Job Corps students did the layout and printing.

The poster was regionalized and placed in businesses, Juvenile Justice Services facilities, schools, churches and programs throughout Utah. Coats, scarves and gloves poured into collection boxes and facilities. Sporting events allowed



**Christian Iheanacho loved the new coats**

discount pricing for donated winter clothing. Youth in locked facilities cleaned the items and helped categorize them for distribution. Other youth crocheted hats and scarves with donated yarn.

In northern Utah we stopped counting after more than more than 1800 coats were donated directly to Juvenile Justice Services facilities. In addition, coats were donated directly to community shelters and alternate drop sites. Items were delivered to shelters and other areas where the need had been established.

Partners included: Clearfield Job Corps, Juvenile Justice Services, Swanson Family Foundation, Pages Daycare, Weber State University, and the Boy Scouts of America with one scout collecting, cleaning and mending 300 coats.

Deliveries to central Utah included 12 bags stuffed with coats, hats and scarves to the Interfaith Hospitality Program; 10 to the battered women’s shelter, three to Crossroads Urban Center; and 80 more to the Crossroads Thrift Store for homeless shelters.

Juvenile Justice Services transported the items using ongoing work programs for manpower. Partners included: Juvenile Justice Services, University Hospital, Salt Lake County Health Department, Healthy Central City, Liberty Senior Center, assisted living programs, Timpanogos Animal Clinic and Hawk Watch International.

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## Mark Payne Honored

Utah State Hospital Supt. Mark Payne received the Norman S. Anderson Mental Health Award in November that recognizes an individual who typifies distinguished service to community mental health.

The award is named after the late Dr. Norman S. Anderson, a Utah-born psychoanalyst, who served Utah residents for many years.

Payne's involvement in the legislative process helped shape mental health laws and policy, including recent commitment laws, parity for mental health insurance coverage and progressive treatment of the state's forensic patient population.

Utah State Hospital, under Payne's leadership, became the only state hospital in the country approved by Fountain House in New York for a Clubhouse program on campus. The hospital also was recognized for SUNRISE, a substance abuse program for those with both substance abuse and mental health diagnoses and became a national leader in reducing the use of seclusion and restraint procedures.

During his seven years as president of Western State Hospital Association, membership grew significantly as he led the way toward improved communication within and between hospitals and improved patient care and safety.

Dallas Earnshaw, the hospital's assistant clinical director, nominated Payne and talked about his accomplishments during an awards ceremony at the University of Utah.

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## Coats Delivered...

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Too many clothing items to count, were given to Mountainlands Head Start, migrant workers and homeless shelters in southern Utah. Partners included Juvenile Justice Services' programs, local high schools, the Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls' Club, Humanitarian Center, United Way of Utah County and the Mary Norris Group.

## Brent Kelsey Receives Substance Abuse Award

Brent Kelsey received the Governor's Award from the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Dec. 8 for outstanding contributions to the substance abuse field.

Kelsey works for Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental health.

Kelsey was selected because of demonstrated commitment to assuring substance-abusing clients receive services in conjunction with the criminal justice system, according to Susan Burke of the coordinating council.

"Brent provided leadership in developing drug courts statewide," she said. "The drug-court system and services have been expanded to include juveniles, adults, children and families as well as parolees leaving Utah State Prison."

Kelsey's work with substance abuse treatment professionals, law enforcement, court systems, legislators, legislative committees and clients and their families has distinguished him, Burke said. Weber County Human Services Director Harold Morrill nominated him.

## The Human Touch

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